

Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, Excerpts from the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Directors, January 31, 1900--September 25, 1901

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Having read Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings (also meetings of subordinate committees of the Board of Directors and meetings of the D&H Stockholders), January 31, 1900--September 25, 1901 (meetings held in the Office of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, New York City), we have selected therefrom, for presentation here, data and facts that are important in the history of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad which are not generally known about the D&H or which are not reported in public or private documents or archives.

1) Use of D&H Bridge between Albany and Troy: February 28, 1900: "The Second Vice President [Horace G. Young] presented an agreement with the Union Traction Co. for the use of this Company's bridge between Albany and Troy: and upon motion, duly seconded, it was referred to the Railroad Committee with power."

Railroad Committee meeting, February 28, 1900: "Messrs. Tillinghast, Young, Willcox, and the President: The matter of the agreement with the Union Traction Co. referred to this Committee by the managers at their meeting this day was taken up and upon motion, duly seconded, its due execution was authorized in the form which follows these minutes [pp. 287-290]."

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors, March 8, 1900: "In connection with the execution of the Agreement with the United Traction Company, the President explained that that company had refused to execute it in the form agreed upon by this Company, and that he had consented to its modification in one or two minor particulars, inasmuch as they only slightly affected the result which was distinctly advantageous to this Company. Upon motion, duly seconded, the execution of the contract in accordance with the explanation of the President, was approved."

2) Agreement between Erie Railroad and D&H about Transporting Coal to Weehawken and Use of D&H Terminals There: February 28, 1900: "The Second Vice President also reported that an arrangement had been effected with the Erie Railroad Company for transportation to Weehawken, upon the same terms as those contained in the agreement of January 1st 1898, viz.: The through freight rate from mines to Weehawken to be forty per cent of the average selling price at Weehawken docks, sixty-five per cent of which shall be paid to the Erie Company for its services and thirty-five per cent thereof retained by this Company. In addition to this, the Erie Company will furnish this Company with a letter agreeing to pay fifteen cents per ton for the use of its terminals at Weehawken, the same to be deducted from the through rate before pro-rating—and asked for approval of said arrangement. On motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the Railroad Committee with power."

3) Entire Property of Pennsylvania Coal Company for Sale: March 28, 1900: "The President (Mr. Olyphant) stated that he had received intimations from responsible persons that the entire property of the Pennsylvania Coal Company could be purchased, but that thus far no reasonable terms had been named. He thought, however, that it might be possible to arrange them

satisfactorily, and that it would be well to look into the subject. Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee to investigate and report."

April 24, 1900 meeting of the Executive Committee: "A meeting of the Executive Committee (Present: Mr. Roosevelt, Chairman; Messrs. Tillinghast, Orr, Van Santvoord, and the President). The Committee met to consider the matter of the purchase of the property of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, which was referred to it by the Board at the last meeting for investigation and report. Upon motion, duly seconded, it was decided inexpedient to pursue the matter any further, as it was found impossible to arrive at any satisfactory agreement as to terms."

4) **D&H Managers for 1900:** May 8, 1900: /Stockholders' Annual Meeting. The D&H Managers elected by the Stockholders for the ensuing year: James Roosevelt, Robert M. Olyphant, William H. Tillinghast, Alfred Van Santvoord, Alexander E. Orr, Chauncey M. Depew, James W. Alexander, James R. Taylor, Horace G. Young, John Jacob Astor, R. Somers Hayes, Frederic Cromwell, David Willcox.

5) **Reducing the Grade at Windsor:** June 19, 1900, Railroad Committee meeting (Present: Mr. Roosevelt, Chairman; Messrs. Young, Willcox, and the President): "The Committee considered the matter of reducing the Windsor grade on the Lackawanna and Susquehanna Railroad, which was postponed from the meeting of February 28th. On motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: / Resolved---That the Second Vice President is hereby authorized to change the location of the Lackawanna and Susquehanna Railroad at Windsor for the purpose of reducing the grade at that point to an estimated maximum of thirteen feet, the cost of the same to approximate \$175,000."

6) **Ringling Bells and Blowing Whistles at Saratoga Springs:** June 27, 1900: "The President read a letter from Messrs. Gage and Perry, proprietors of the United States Hotel, Saratoga Springs, seeking an abatement of noise caused by ringing bells and blowing whistles of locomotives next their hotel, which, they claim, seriously threatens the prosperity of their establishment and offering to indemnify this Company for any loss during July and August from casualties caused by failure to ring bells and blow whistles, and to pay any additional expense to properly man certain crossings. Upon motion, duly seconded, this matter was referred to the officers, with power."

7) **Five hundred Additional Coal Cars to be Purchased to Carry Soft Coal:** August 29, 1900: "The President (Mr. Olyphant) further stated that we are offered the transportation of a large quantity of soft coal to the East if we can handle it, and that to do so will require the purchase of 500 more coal cars. Upon motion, duly seconded, he was authorized to contract for them."

8) **Cost of Thirteenth Regiment Armory at Scranton:** September 26, 1900: "The Vice President (Mr. Roosevelt) stated that the question had arisen whether or not we should continue payment of our subscription toward the erection of the Thirteenth Regiment Armory at Scranton in view of the fact that the Pennsylvania Coal Co. had declined to pay its proportion of the entire cost, a condition upon which the original subscription was predicated. Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the President, with power."

9) Death of D&H Vice President James Roosevelt: December 26, 1900: "Upon motion by Mr. Tillinghast, seconded by M. Willcox, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Since the last meeting of the Board, this Company has lost, by the death of Mr. James Roosevelt, its Vice President and the senior member of the Board in length of continuous service. Mr. Roosevelt became one of the Managers of the Company in March 1875, and was elected its Vice President in May 1894. / Mr. Roosevelt's varied practical experience fitted him to be most useful and effective in the affairs of the Company and during his connection therewith he gave continuous and careful attention to its interests. As questions arose with reference thereto, he familiarized himself thoroughly with their merits and although he did not shun responsibility when necessary, his inclination was always toward a wide conservatism such as he deemed would aid the permanent prosperity of the Company. His services were, therefore, most valuable in their character, their termination has inflicted upon it a loss which is most deeply regretted by this Board and by all those who are interested in the welfare of the Company. / In addition to this, Mr. Roosevelt was always most urbane and considerate in his personal relations. While he had no hesitation in expressing his views as to matters of sound policy, no element of personal feeling ever resulted from any difference of opinion. To each member of the Board he was a most agreeable and esteemed personal friend. The Board can, therefore, appreciate the depth of grief which his loss has caused to those who stood in nearer relations and most truly sympathizes with their sorrow.

"RESOLVED—That this minute be inscribed upon the records of the Company, and a copy thereof sent to Mr. Roosevelt's family, and that a committee be appointed by the president to procure and present to the family some suitable token in commemoration of Mr. Roosevelt's long connection with and service to the Company. / The President then said that, owing to the death of Mr. Roosevelt, it was desirable to elect someone to succeed him as Vice President. Upon motion of Mr. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Cromwell, Mr. David Willcox was nominated for that position, whereupon he retired from the room. The secretary was appointed teller, and reported the casting of seven votes for Vice President, all in favor of Mr. David Willcox. Mr. Taylor was requested to inform Mr. Willcox who thereupon returned and resumed his seat. / The Board then proceeded to the appointment of a Manager to succeed Mr. James Roosevelt. Mr. Taylor nominated Mr. R. S. Grant, and was seconded by Mr. Willcox. The motion being put, was carried unanimously, and Mr. Grant declared a duly appointed member of the Board."

10) Request from Welsh Congregational Church of Carbondale: January 30, 1901: "A request was submitted from the Welsh Congregational Church of Carbondale, Pa., for the conveyance, in fee, of property now held by them under the usual condition of reversion, to enable them to borrow money for contemplated improvements. Upon motion, duly seconded, this matter was referred to the officers of the Company, with power."

11) James Haughtaling Granted Pension: January 30, 1901: "The President asked authority to pension James Haughtaling, for forty-eight years in the Company's employ, and recently in command of the ocean barge "Scranton", who is physically incapable of further work, and who, during the strike of 1886 and 1887, made himself especially useful to the company. Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the officers, with power, under the resolution for such cases adapted at the annual stockholders' meeting May 9, 1893."

12) **Honesdale Branch of D&H a Solid Success:** January 30, 1901: "The President submitted the text of the annual report [dated December 31, 1900], which was read, and duly adopted as the report of the Managers to the Stockholders for the year 1900, ordered spread on the minutes and duly distributed, and is as follows: ".....The Honesdale Branch of the Pennsylvania Division has been in full operation for two months, and has proved the wisdom of the change from the old Gravity road to one of standard gauge....."

13) **Silver Loving Cup and Platter in Commemoration of James Roosevelt's Service to the D&H:** March 27, 1901: "Mr. Tillinghast called the attention of the Board to the handsome silver loving cup and platter, which, in accordance with the resolution adopted December 26, 1900, he had procured to be presented to Mrs. James Roosevelt in commemoration of the services of her husband to this Company and the confidence and esteem in which he was held by the Board. Upon motion, duly seconded, the Board expressed its thanks to Mr. Tillinghast for his kind attention to this matter and its gratification at his happy selection of the subject of the testament, as well as the beauty of its design and workmanship."

14) **Death of James R. Taylor, D&H Manager:** May 3, 1901, Special meeting of the Board of Directors: "Upon motion, duly seconded, the following minute and resolution were unanimously adopted: We have learned with great sorrow of the sudden death of our associate and friend, Mr. James R. Taylor, the senior member of this Board, so long and honorably connected with the Company as one of its Managers. He entered its service May 7, 1863, resigned December 24, 1889, and was re-elected May 8, 1894. / Mr. Taylor always manifested the greatest interest in the affairs of the Company. He was prompt and regular in his attention to the duties of a Manager, to whose discharge he brought a well furnished mind, good business discernment, and an affable spirit. Although not in active business, his tastes and interests were such as kept him in touch with commercial life, and his judgment—formed in the mercantile school in which he was reared and by experience and observation--joined to a sound common sense--thoroughly fitted him to give valuable advice in matters of detail and policy.... Such characteristics as these could not fail to make him a most delightful companion and associate nor to impress upon our minds and hearts. We will always hold him in affectionate remembrance. / Mr. Willcox nominated Mr. George I. Wilber of Oneonta, N. Y. for appointment to the place made vacant by Mr. Taylor's death. This was seconded by Mr. Grant and carried unanimously."

15) **Lease from Northern Coal and Iron Company to Plymouth and Larksville Railway Company:** May 29, 1901: "The President (Mr. Olyphant) submitted a lease from the Northern Coal and Iron Co. to the Plymouth and Larksville Railway Co. of the right to operate cars over that portion of its Bull Run Branch between Main Street, Plymouth, and Blindtown Road, for \$300.00 per annum, in advance, the lease to continue for one year and thereafter until terminated by six months notice to that effect, the execution of which, on motion, duly seconded, was authorized."

16) **Pension Granted to Peter C. Bishop:** June 26, 1901: "An application for a pension, from Peter C. Bishop, was submitted. He was in the employ of the Company for fifty-two years on the Pennsylvania Division of the Canal and was section foreman at the time of its abandonment. The President recommended an allowance of \$25 per month, to take effect from June 1st, and upon motion, was seconded, and so ordered."

17) **Annual Appropriation of \$300 from D&H to Oneonta Hospital:** September 25, 1901:"Mr. Young drew attention to the erection of a hospital at Oneonta by Col. Reuben L. Fox in memory of his wife, and its presentation to that village, and suggested that on account of our large interests there and the great number of our employees living there, an appropriation of \$300 per annum should be made towards its maintenance. Upon motion duly seconded, an appropriation of that amount was ordered, the same to be charged to the fund set apart by the stockholders for such purposes."

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